



LTR-117-2016

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SAN FRANCISCO

22 March 2016

Dear Ms. Yee,

Warm greetings from the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco!

On behalf of the officers and staff of the Consulate General and its attached agencies, may I take the liberty of expressing our full support to the Bataan Legacy Historical Society's recommendations for the implementation of AB 199, *An act to amend Section 51221.3 of the Education Code, relating to school curriculum*, and to reflect changes in the history-social sciences curriculum framework for Grade 10 and 11.

World War II was a seminal point in the shared history of the Philippines and the United States. It was on this foundation that the strong relations between the two countries was built. The personal and collective sacrifices of Filipino and American soldiers, highlighted by the Death March that forced approximately 66,000 Filipino soldiers and 12,000 American soldiers to take a 145-kilometer hike from Mariveles, Bataan to San Fernando, ultimately allowed the allies to prepare for the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. American liberation forces, supported by Filipino guerillas, eventually retook the Philippines in 1945.

This 2016, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the United States. The relations were formally forged soon after the end of World War II. Your support for the inclusion of this vital piece of history shared by both the Philippines and the U.S. would allow the Filipino-American Community, particularly the youth, to realize the Philippines' significant contribution to world history, and would deepen the people-to-people connection between our two countries.

California has the opportunity to lead the rest of the nation in adopting these additions to the history-social sciences curriculum framework for Grade 10 and 11. We urge you and the State Board of Education to fully implement AB 199, as well as ensure to that this historical framework will accurately portray the sacrifices of an entire nation, and the Filipino and American soldiers who fought side by side during World War II.

The Filipino-American Community counts on your support for this important cause.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY S. BENSURTO, JR.
Consul General

MS. TRACIE YEE

Liaison

Instructional Quality Commission

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< Title >

Line	Current Text on History Curriculum Framework Draft#2	Proposed by Bataan Legacy Historical Society	Reason/References
703-704	American forces and their Filipino allies, who comprised majority of the troops but were poorly equipped...	The U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) comprised of American and Filipino troops, who manned seven-eights of the main line of resistance but were hardly trained and poorly equipped...	<p>The Filipino soldiers were more than allies (allies included Australia, Great Britain, Netherlands, New Zealand, Mexico). They were part of the same Army command - U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE), formed on July 26, 1941 by a military order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It eventually comprised of 19,000 American troops, 12,000 Philippine Scouts (Filipino soldiers under the U.S. Army with American officers) and 119,000 Philippine Commonwealth soldiers. The Philippine Commonwealth soldiers barely had any training (majority started training November 1941) and they were given World War I equipment, weapons and ammunition.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p>

704- Led by General Douglas
705 MacArthur, the supreme
commander of the Allied
Forces in the Pacific.

Were under the command of
General Douglas MacArthur.

Advanced Infantry
Officers Course 1949-
1950 - The Operation of
the II Corps of Bataan
10 January to 8 April
1942, The Infantry
School, Ft. Benning,
GA;
Sixth Annual Report -
U.S. High
Commissioner of the
Philippine Islands;

The Fall of the
Philippines, Ed. By
Louis Morton; WWII in
the Pacific , Dept. of
History, US Military
Academy

Lt. General Douglas
MacArthur was
appointed as USAFFE's
Commanding General
(CG) and promoted to
full General on Dec. 19,
1941.
On April 18, 1942, the
command of the
Southwest Pacific Area
(SWPA) was
established in Australia
in which the
Commanding General of
USAFFE (MacArthur)
became Commander in
Chief.
On April 6, 1945, Gen.
MacArthur became the
Commander in Chief of
the U.S. Army Forces,
Pacific (CINCAFPAC).
It was only August 14,
1945, that he was

		<p>appointed as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Pacific, following the Potsdam agreement of July 26, 1945.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>Memorandum for the President, Subject: Authority of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (U.S. National Archives & Records Administration), Date September 13, 1945.</p>	

705- 706	<p>...Were unable to defend the territory and ultimately retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.</p>	<p>...Were unable to defend the territory and ultimately retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula in accordance with War Plan Orange 3.</p>	<p>The retreat to Bataan was part of the war strategy, War Plan Orange 3 (WPO3) incorporated in Rainbow Plan 5. General Douglas MacArthur changed the war plan in October, 1941 to meet the enemy on the beaches instead of following War Plan Orange 3 (WPO3) which called for retreating to the Bataan Peninsula in the event of a successful Japanese invasion. Resources were distributed according to the new plan. On December 24, 1941, General MacArthur reverted to WPO3 and withdrawal to Bataan took effect immediately.</p> <p>Sources: War Plan Orange by Edward W. Miller;</p> <p>Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific , Dept. of History, US Military Academy</p>
706- 708	<p>Although American and Filipino troops lacked ammunition and</p>	<p>Despite suffering from massive diseases and starvation and</p>	<p>Majority of the planes of the Far East Air Force</p>

	<p>food, and thousands were sick from malaria, and dengue fever, they managed to defend Bataan for 99 days.</p>	<p>fighting without any air support, the USAFFE troops performed a delaying action that disrupted the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army of 52 days, defending Bataan for 99 days.</p> <p>were destroyed during the first week of the war and only a few reconnaissance planes existed as of December 13, 1941.</p> <p>The troops were put on half rations on January 5, 1942 and on quarter rations by March, 1942.</p> <p>General MacArthur addressed the troops on Jan. 15 that help was on the way but no reinforcements ever came.</p> <p>War Plan Orange 3 (incorporated under Rainbow Plan 5) called for a delaying action in the Philippines. This enabled the Allied Forces to harness the resources that eventually led to their victory in the Pacific.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>Advanced Infantry Officers Course 1949-1950 - The Operation of the II Corps of Bataan 10 January to 8 April 1942, The Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA;</p> <p>Navy Basic War Plan Rainbow #5;</p>
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709 MacArthur fled to Australia during this period, vowing, "I shall return." On March 12, 1942, General MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia. Gen. MacArthur did not flee. He was ordered to leave in February, 1942 and head to Australia in accordance with Rainbow Plan 5. On March 12, 1942, he left the Philippines for Australia.

NOTE: Please include only facts and events of the war. Delete reference to "I shall return" as this does not add value to the framework and only continues to mystify General MacArthur.

Sources:
Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;

The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific , Dept. of History, US Military Academy

709- On April 9, 1942, General Ned P. King, Jr., Commanding General of Luzon Force surrendered 75,000 troops of 63,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans, mainly suffering from diseases and starvation. They were forced to march to their prison camp at Camp O'Donnell located some 60 miles south of Manila. The USAFFE troops were placed on half rations early January. By February, quinine, the cure for malaria was Please use General Edward P. King, Jr. which is his real name.

were then forced to march more than 60 miles north in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Conditions during the march were brutal. POWs who couldn't keep due to exhaustion or a lack of food or water, they were beaten, bayoneted, shot or in some cases, beheaded by Japanese soldiers; approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died along the way. If the POWs survived the grueling trek, they were packed into pre-war boxcars for transport to prison camps. Thousands of soldiers died in the journey and in the camps from sickness and starvation.

miles away with no provisions for food, water or shelter. Those who could no longer go on were beaten, bayoneted, shot and in some cases even beheaded by their Japanese captors. Upon reaching San Fernando Train Station, they were crammed in boxcars where many died while standing. Approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Once inside their prison camp, approximately 20,000 Filipinos and 1600 Americans died. A majority of the American prisoners were later transported under dismal conditions in the hulls of unmarked ships to Japan, China, Formosa and Korea where they worked as slave laborers. Approximately 5,000 died in so called "Hell Ships" war needs to be a majority from friendly fire, others from starvation, disease or execution. Many more died in these labor camps because of dismal conditions.

no longer given to the soldiers. By March, the troops were placed on quarter rations; 500 soldiers/day were afflicted with malaria and dysentery. By April, there were no longer any reserve troops. By April 7, only 2 days' worth of quarter rations remained.

Majority of the death toll during the Bataan Death march took place during the actual march and not during the boxcar ride.

The fate of the American prisoners of war needs to be included in this segment as they were part of USAFFE. Death rate for American POW's was 40%.

Sources:
Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;

The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific , Dept. of History, US Military Academy;

Congressional Research Service Report for Congress on US Prisoners of War and Civilian American Citizens Captured and

			Interned by Japan in WWII, July 2001.